



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2025, No. 7

July 2025



The Hill Country Flood Disaster

By now we are all familiar with the details of the flash flood down the path of the Guadalupe River through the hill country.

The [destructive, fast-moving waters](#) rose 26 feet (8 meters) on the Guadalupe River in just 45 minutes before daybreak Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The rains continued pounding communities outside San Antonio on Saturday and flash flood warnings and watches remained in effect through most of the weekend.

The area along the Guadalupe is a popular vacation destination and there are several RV parks and summer camps that dot the landscape.

At about 4 AM, a rushing wall of water became a deadly flood that as of this writing caused 104+ deaths in three counties along its path. The greatest loss of life occurred in Kerr County. (Note: with 5 young granddaughters, your editor is greatly touched by the loss of little girl campers in the flood)

The next meeting, June 12, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

It was an event for which amateur radio exists. The Hill Country Amateur Radio Club has an extensive emergency communication and operations plan, in coordination with local governments, police, fire and first responders. But such a catastrophe can overwhelm one club's capacity. Your editor searched for news of amateur activity in the aftermath and very little is forthcoming. No surprise, everyone is too busy to do public reports. But hams are there. On July 6, the following message was posted locally:

"To:main@saradioclub.groups.io

Sun 7/6/2025 10:09 PM

ALL SAN ANTONIO AREA RADIO CLUBS

A call is out for amateur radio operators to volunteer to join search and rescue personnel as the search for missing continues along the Guadalupe River.

Volunteers must have a working 2-meter HT, boots, hat and walking stick. If you have a cross-band radio in your vehicle that is a plus. Work shifts are 12 hours.

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday and Wednesday. Additional days may be added.

If you can volunteer for a workday, contact Patricia, KI7IEE or Ned KG5US. Phone numbers are: Patricia (206) 949-8974, Ned (210) 391-8258.

J C Smith, N5RXS"

(Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
7 R		N5IUT			San Antonio, TX		July 2025
TO							

Hello South Texas,

Field Day was a huge success. People had a great time, a nice dinner and a fine breakfast. We make a lot of contacts. The Longest DX this year was Japan.

I hope you were able to check out the Yaesu DXft101MP radio that was donated to SARC. You will likely see that radio at events for years to come.

Why do we do all of this? On the morning of July 4, 2025, we as radio operators received a stark reminder at what is at stake. The devastating flooding, the loss of life and people trying to make sense of it all.

As you can read from this Bexar Wire, on July 2, 1932, Kerrville had a flood that was more water than the one last week. The telephone and telegraph lines were down for three days and the only contact outside of the Guadalupe valley was via radio. Amateur Radio operators got the word out! When all else fails.

How did the operators of Kerrville prepare in case they were ever needed? Early in 1932, Eugene T. Butt, W5BSF, got a new radio, mentioned in the February 1932 QST "W5BSF has a hundred-watt crystal rig." The March 1932 QST stated, "W5BSF has a card from Africa." So, Eugene worked Africa on his new rig. That was quite a catch for a 1932 receiver. Reported in August QST 1932 (before the flood) "Kerrville: Clarence T. Lawson W5BKE is on 7020 crystal controlled. W5BSF is on vacation." They shared the load passing messages via Kerrville.

They practiced by moving traffic via the Amateur Radio Relay League, so when the flood hit, all of them could pass emergency traffic.

Please learn traffic handling, join ARES and RACES, get on the nets, and take the required courses. More information to follow.

73

Paul Guido, President, SARC

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT
President, San Antonio Radio Club
Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
Editor
210-563-2121
jlneffjr@sbcglobal.net

The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: – Jon April, KI5CSL: Field Day. Last full weekend of June each year (June 28-29, 2025) @ Shavano Park pavilion. This year, we cannot start until 1:30 PM local due to another event that day. Jon provided additional details about the event. For more information: <https://w5sc.org/field-day-2/>. All are welcome. No license needed. Unlicensed people can operate radios under the supervision of a licensed operator, using the W5SC callsign. Volunteers needed, and those interested can sign up at the club's website. Operators are welcome to bring their own gear, including radios & antenna. If you plan to do that, contact Jon April in advance, so that we can incorporate you into the setup. "Iron operators" are welcome: they operate the gear overnight when most people are sleeping. 147.380 MHz will be the frequency for communication among the attendees.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions or changes, the minutes were passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – BSides June 21, 2025. We will be supporting this event. This is a cyber-security event. BSides events combine security expertise from a variety of platforms in search of the "next big thing" in information security. <https://www.bsidesatx.com/>

Vice President – Position Vacant – If interested in filling this position, contact Paul Guido.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – Radio Fiesta was in the black this year!

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Board will meet August 7 via Zoom to review budget.

Education and Training – Marvin "Marlo" Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): No report

Emergency Communications – Ned Lee KG5US – Absent

POTA: No report

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – One will happen at Field Day and another at B-Sides.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed May 31, 2025. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April, KI5CSK: Information noted above.

Finance and Review – Previously completed.

JOTA – Position vacant. No Report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – No report.

Kendal Amateur Radio Society has had teams working in the Comfort Area, and requested relief for the move to Sisterdale. With two additional Kendal operators, 8 HCARC members responded and were deployed to accompany teams to isolated stretches of the River, south and West of Sisterdale. Included in the teams were Boat Res-



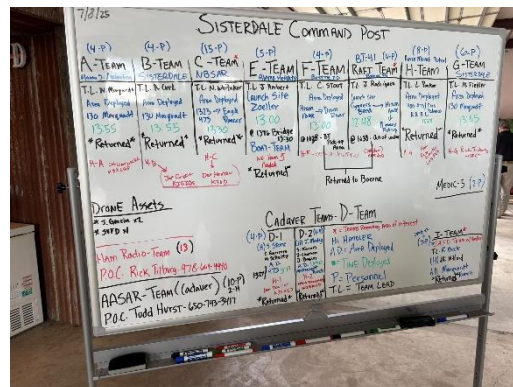
Dog team heads out, ham with handheld far left



Net Control

cuers, and two Dog Teams, as well as walking teams. There is an incredible amount of close detail work involved. Searchers were resolute, and committed. Our presence increased the safety factor, as many areas are unreachable by handheld radios or phone. In one case toward the end of the day, a relay was accomplished for a team with a handheld radio that

could not reach Net Control. A mobile station nearby, was able to pass on the traffic.



Assignment Board

Joe-KI5IQE, Rob-W6FVO, Dennis-W5FBG, Dee-K7UD, DocCox-KJ5KZJ, Lyle-W5TOT, Cal-WB2EQD, and Hank-KG5TKV represented HCARC

As they did in the 1932 Kerrville flood (ARRL news piece elsewhere in the newsletter) hams today are providing a critical communication service to those who need it.

Transcribed from QST, January 1933 QRR, Amateur Emergency Work



Whenever storm, flood or other emergency disrupted established lines of communication. 1932 saw amateur radio stepping into the breach to link an emergency area with

the outer world on two major and a number of minor occasions.

When southwest Texas¹ went grimly to work to relieve distress and restore order in the Guadalupe Valley area stricken by flood on July 1st, where nine lives were lost and over one million dollars' property damage done, amateurs of that region were just beginning to relax from their three-day vigil in which they had successfully bridged the total gap in all wire communications, leaping the isolation created by the raging waters. From the headwaters of the Guadalupe River up in the hill country northeast of San Antonio had come sweeping the most disastrous flood ever to wreak havoc on the peaceful upper Guadalupe Valley. The heavy rains throughout western Texas during the last days of June had suddenly augmented the mountain stream by a 45-foot rise, the highest in history, washing out



bridges, sweeping away hundreds of summer resort cottages, inundating great areas, leaving thousands homeless and without food and shelter.

By nine o'clock the evening of July 1st, all telephone and telegraph lines had gone out. The total lack of communications and transportation facilities virtually isolated the region from the entire outer world. In accordance with the established procedure of amateur radio in emergencies, the three amateurs in Kerrville, Texas, hard-hit summer resort town of 4500, where more than thirty houses were swept from their foundations, met at the home of one of them, Eugene T. Butt, W5BSF, early Saturday morning. By 8:45 a.m. W5BSF was on the air calling "QRR San Antonio," with Clarence T. Lawson, W5BKE, as chief operator, assisted by Jimmy Mitchell, W5BKZ, and J. O. McKnight, W5MT, a visiting amateur from San Augustine.

It was not San Antonio that was first worked, however, but W5WL, operated by E. M. Flake, in Houston. First definite news of the extent of the flood damage was flashed to the world over this circuit, and a dozen messages from groups of stranded refugees reporting their safety to relatives and friends were transmitted.

THE LONG WATCH BEGINS

During the succeeding three days W5BSF remained on the air continuously except for late night and early morning hours, when skip conditions prevented local working. Until the wire lines were able to resume service at 6 p.m. on July 4th, Lawson and his assistant operators remained at the key, eating their meals at the operating table when necessary, and maintaining constant contact with Houston, San Antonio and Richmond, Texas.

A total of 111 distress messages were sent and 25 received and delivered, not including notices to the broadcasting stations and several long communications to the press, for whom amateur radio performed an invaluable service in the Texas emergency. Most of the messages were from individuals concerning their safety and property losses. Many of these constituted the Western Union file of telegrams, relayed by amateur radio from W5BSF, and turned over to the wire line at Houston and San Antonio. Pleas from the chapter commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War for department and state aid to the American Legion tubercular camp, Legion, where nearly fifty families of disabled war veterans were driven from their homes, destitute, were accorded prompt action, Governor Sterling ordering tents and bedding from National Guard headquarters to be sent the veterans. This service alone was of enormous importance in the relief work to follow.

Counsellors from the many boys' camps in the flooded region either swam the swollen streams, crossed in canoes or trekked the weary miles over the hills to Kerrville, and had Butt send messages to the outside world that all was well. In practically every instance, according to W5BSF, answers to these messages were received within thirty minutes after they were sent.

While the bulk of the message traffic was with Houston, San Antonio amateurs performed excellent service in delivering press dispatches and radiograms to persons in their locality. Horace E. Biddy, W5MN, and L. J. Stickney, W50W-WLJ, at Fort Sam Houston, were active in this accomplishment. Along with W5WL at Houston, the most indefatigable operator was H. N. Darst, W5AEA, at Richmond, Texas, who remained on watch during the entire three-day period until wire lines were again run through.

*Assistant to the Secretary, A.R.R.L.

¹ A.R.R.L. Weekly New Service.

A PRIMARY PHASE OF AMATEUR RADIO'S EMERGENCY RESPONSIBILITY IS IN TRANSMITTING AUTHENTIC INFORMATION TO THE PRESS

In most disasters of recent years amateurs have supplied the waiting world through the newspapers with news that could not otherwise be obtained.

Tom Mahoney

Texas manager

Mr. E. M. Flake,
Radio Station W5WL
Houston, Texas

Letter from the United Press Association
United Press Association
General Offices
News Building New York City
Dallas Bureau
News Journal Building

July 4, 1932

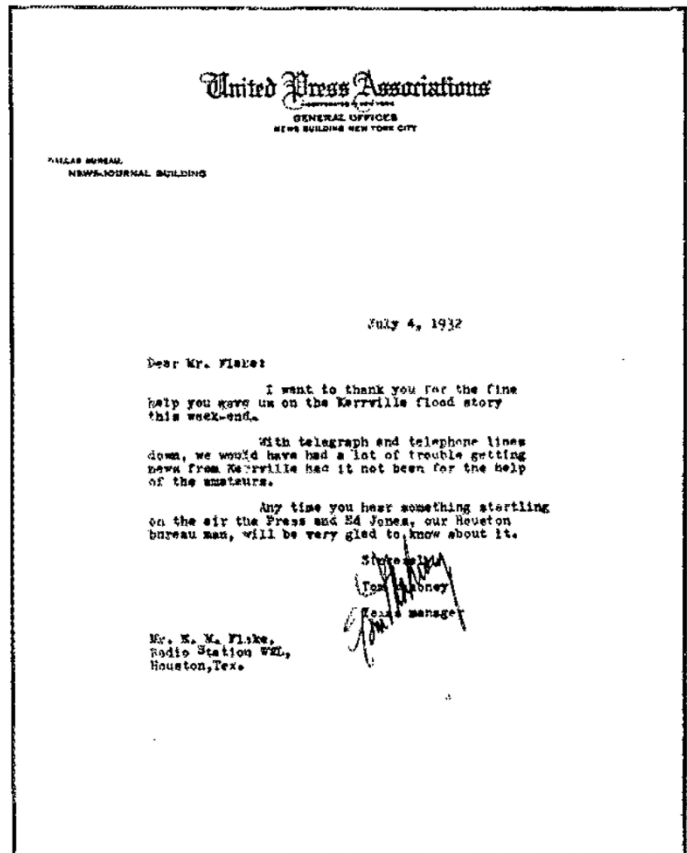
Dear Mr. Flake

I want to thank you for the fine help you gave us on the Kerrville flood story this weekend.

With the telegraph and telephone lines down, we would have had a lot of trouble getting news from Kerrville had it not been for the help of the amateurs.

Any time you hear something startling on the air the Press and Ed Jones, our Houston bureau man, will be very glad to know about it.

Sincerely,



Field Day Report Summary (from ARRL submission)

Field Day was a great success. Joined by the Alamo Area Radio Organization (AARO) and San Antonio Digital Radio Club (SADRC), the event was hosted by the San Antonio Radio Club (SARC). The event lived up to the SARC FD credo, have fun, be safe, eat barbeque and operate radios. Thanks to all, no matter whether you operated, supported or just came out to visit and eat barbeque. A special thanks to Jon April, KI5CSK, field day coordinator and overall honcho. Thanks to Paul Guido, N5IUT for Sunday morning breakfast tacos and coffee. Thanks to the overnight crew and everyone who volunteered to help.

Call Used: W5SC **GOTA Station Call:** (NONE) **ARRL/RAC Section:** STX **Class:** 8A

Participants: 55 **Club/Group Name:** San Antonio Radio Club

Power Source(s): Generator

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 2,828 - (Additional 100 points pending bonus documentation)

Some Field Day Photos
Jim Neff, WJ4M







Tidbits from Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

*Fri 7/4/2025 8:27 AM

Ever wonder ... Why aren't there any Independence Day knock-knock jokes? Because freedom rings. 🛎

****Of ALL the words in the world,** the one that's managed to sneak into nearly every language isn't poetic or inspiring. Nope. It's short, sweet. 🗣 **Can you guess** the most universally spoken word in the world? Is it: A) Hello, B) Okay, C) Stop or D) Love? The answer is patiently waiting at the end!

Answer: B) Okay. Yep, "OK" is the most universally understood word on Earth. It's infiltrated nearly every language without even trying. Linguists think it stuck because it's snappy, neutral and works in almost any context: a shoulder shrug, a subtle threat or an "I read your text, and I'm pretending to care."



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

See article by Bill Craft, KD2HJQ

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Field Day VE session June 29, 2025

by Bill, KD2HIQ



Figure 1 Mark, KJ5CBL

the newly licensed technicians. One of our members, Steve Ortize's, KJ5HIH son, Alejandro, won the radio after he



The Schavano Park pavilion was in use until 1:30 on Saturday so we had to change our normal start up time for Field Day on Saturday, which moved our VE test session to Sunday at noon. Thirteen candidates showed up for testing at the Schavano Park pavilion. It was hot as normal, but the big ass fans did their best to keep us cool.

We had quite a surprise when one candidate, Mark, KJ5CBL said that his club offered to pay the fee for all those wishing to take the test. The offer was from the members of KARS Kendall Amateur Radio Society) in Boerne.

Cray, K5MUG now a silent key, funded a memorial fund to continue with his tradition of awarding a handheld radio to one of the newly licensed technicians. One of our members, Steve Ortize's, KJ5HIH son, Alejandro, won the radio after he passed his technician's test. He came because his dad was taking his test to upgrade his license to General. So, a winning day for father and son.

We did have a most unusual candidate this time, one from India who wanted to upgrade his Indian amateur license to general. However, it was unfortunate that India does not have a reciprocal-permit with the US. That meant that he had to start over by obtaining a FRN and taking our technician license.

To get a Ham radio license in India, also known as an Amateur Station Operator's Certificate (ASOC), you need to pass the ASOC examination conducted by the Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) wing of the Ministry of Communications. The exam is available in two grades: Restricted and General. The General grade requires proficiency in Morse code at 8 words per minute. The examination includes written and practical components.



Figure 2 Bennie, NU5P presenting radio to Alejandro



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

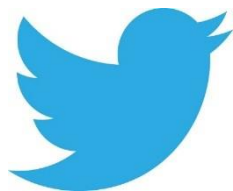
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

JOTA

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 was held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

. Anyone wanting to operate a station next year need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms.
<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check the club web page, W5SC.org

Radio Fiesta 2026

Radio Fiesta 2026 will be at Schertz Civic Center on May 29&30. Get a table and bring stuff to sell or just come in and browse the deals, listen to the presentations and swap tales. Hope to see you there!

Field Day 2025

Field Day 2025 was June 28 – 29 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty second year. Start planning for FD 2026, where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

License Testing Dates for 2025

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing." If not otherwise noted, testing site is Leon Valley Library, 6425 Evers Rd, Leon Valley, TX 78238

Scheduled for 2025

June 7 Radio Fiesta 1:30
June 29 Field day
Aug 23 12:00
Oct 25 12:00 Leon Valley Fire Station
Dec 20 12:00

SARC Meeting Dates for 2025

January 9, 2025
February 13, 2025
March 13, 2025
April 10, 2025
May 8, 2025
June 12, 2025
July 10, 2025
August 14, 2025
September 11, 2025
October 9, 2025
November 13, 2025
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
Ned Lee, KG5US RACES Bexar County

210-344-3481/210-391-8258

David Rice, NB5K
ARES Bexar County EC 210-367-8623